

**Bicycle and Pedestrian Working Group
for
Executive Committee for Highway Safety
Meeting Minutes; Mtg. #2
September 7, 2006**

Location:

NCDOT Large Conference Room, Room 280, 401 Oberlin Road @ 9:00 a.m.

Working Group Members in Attendance:

Timothy Akers	Loretta Barren	Cliff Braam	Terry Canales
Jeff Cox	James Dunlop	Vickie Embry	Frank Hackney
Brad Hibbs	Daniel Keel	Greg Loy	Mary Meletiou
Tyler Meyer	Jimmy Newkirk	Tom Norman	Pete Schubert
Carrie Simpson			

Working Group Members Absent:

J. Blackman Charlie Zegeer

Guests in Attendance:

Stephen Lowry

Scribe:

Jeff Cox

Minutes:

- The meeting began at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Task I – Welcome

Tom opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Task II – Introductions

- Tom introduced the newcomers to the group.

Task III – Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Workshop

Mary Meletiou spoke of the importance for members of this Working Group to attend the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan Workshop, which is hosted by ITRE and put on by FHWA. It will be held October 10-11. Please make plans to attend.

Task IV – Crash Data/History

Stephen Lowry of the Highway Safety Improvement Program Group in NCDOT's Traffic Engineering and Safety Systems Branch spoke to the Working Group in regard to a handout that included:

- A quick description of the Highway Safety Improvement Program Group and its role in identifying, reviewing and addressing traffic safety concerns throughout the state.
- A list of the "Top 40" Potentially Hazardous Bicycle and Pedestrian Intersection Locations in North Carolina.

- A list of NC Bike and Pedestrian Crash Highlights (Yearly Averages based on 2000-2004 crash data)
- 17 tables of data on Pedestrian Crashes
- 16 tables of data on Bicycle Crashes

Other issues discussed during this time include:

- Pedestrian fatalities are up in 2006 in NC
- Fatality slips are sent out each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Contact Cliff Braam if you wish to be on the distributions list.
- Here is the link to the 2005 report from the Highway Safety Improvement Program:
<http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/traffic/safety/reports/HSIP/2005HSIP.pdf>
- In order to develop a history of pedestrian activity, consider a change to DOT policy that would count pedestrians during all turning movement counts.
- Is there a way to capture data on pedestrian injuries and fatalities on school properties/campuses?

Task V – Investigating Accidents Involving Bicyclists and Pedestrians: A Personal Experience

Vickie Embry, NCDOT's Triad Regional Traffic Engineer, gave an overview of her analyses of fatal crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists over the past several years. It is her responsibility to investigate the locations where these crashes occur to look for ways to improve intersection geometrics, visibility, traffic signals, or other engineering. Most of these crash locations result in no recommendations because the crashes are the result of unusual circumstances.

Task VI – Discussion of “Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Issues to be Addressed”

Tom Norman led the Working Group in a discussion of the attached handout “Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Issues to be Addressed” – a list of issues developed from the brainstorming session in the initial meeting and suggestions sent to Jeff Cox since.

The first Major section of the handout on Education Methods brought about lively discussion:

- There was general discussion about the need to be proactive, rather than reactive, considering the rapid population growth that is projected in the state. It is also important to avoid repeating mistakes as the state continues to develop to accommodate the population growth.
- There is also a general lack of trust in the current Drivers Education Program. Privatization and outdated requirements have gutted the consistency and effectiveness of the program.
 - Cliff Braam recommended that the Working Group create a Technical Group on Drivers Education to author sections of the Drivers Manual and coordinate with the Drivers Education Working Group.
 - Mary Meletiou said that a draft of a section proposed for the Drivers Manual has already been drafted and would require minimum work to bring to a point of readiness for inclusion in the manual.

- The Working Group decided to springboard from that draft and have Mary Meletiou complete the authoring of the section for Drivers Manual. This will be presented to the ECHS as an Action Item from the Working Group.
- Pete Schubert recommended the addition of “Law Enforcement Education” as a bullet under Education Methods.
 - Tim Akers offered that Law Enforcement has many opportunities to get the word out about bicycle and pedestrian safety issues. Some of these opportunities include community watch meetings and radio public service announcements.
 - Potential venues to educate law enforcement agencies include workshops for traffic units of police forces sponsored through the Governor’s Highway Safety Program, the NC Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Meeting, and the Justice Academy.
 - A Technical Group (or subcommittee) on Law Enforcement Education was formed that includes: Pete Schubert, Mary Meletiou, Frank Hackney, and Tim Akers. The Technical Group will further explore the options in the area of Law Enforcement Education. This will be presented to the ECHS as an Action Item from the Working Group.
- The next meeting of the ECHS is scheduled for October 24, 2006 from 9:30 – 11:30 in the Chief Engineer’s Conference Room. Two action items will be presented from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Working Group at this meeting. Cliff Braam mentioned that this represents much progress and congratulated the Working Group for these accomplishments.

Task VII – Next Meeting Date

Our next meeting will be at the Large Conference Room at 401 Oberlin Road on at 9:00 on Thursday, November 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned at noon.